

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

On page 1, line 5, please insert the following:

--This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application 09/464,786 filed December 17, 1999, entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR EFFICIENTLY PASSING THE SILENCE OR UNUSED STATUS OF A DSO CHANNEL THROUGH A DSO SWITCH MATRIX AND A DATA SWITCH", which has a common assignee and inventorship to the present application, and the above noted patent application, is incorporated by reference in its entirety.--.